

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 AGRE-00 DOTE-00 HUD-02  
HEW-06 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-07  
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 INR-07 L-03 NSF-02  
NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05 USIA-15 SS-15 SP-02 INT-05  
OIC-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EA-12 /142 W  
-----016921 170556Z /12

O P 151114Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1659

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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USOECD

BONN PASS EPA DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR BLUM  
SECSTATE PASS EPA, COMMERCE, CEQ, FDA, OSHA, CPSC, DOI  
BURSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV OECD

SUBJECT: OECD 15TH MEETING CHEMICALS GROUP, NOV. 2-5, 1977

SUMMARY REPORT FROM I. FULLER TO DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR BLUM.

1. 15TH MEETING OF OECD CHEMICALS GROUP CHAIRED BY  
LOWELL MILLER, EPA, RESULTED IN MAJOR COMMITMENT BY  
MEMBER COUNTRIES FOR CREATION OF PROGRAM FOR HARMONIZA-  
TION OF TESTING METHODS. SIX COUNTRIES VOLUNTEERED TO  
LEAD VARIOUS EXPERT GROUPS IN COORDINATED EFFORT TO  
EVALUATE EXISTING AND PLANNED TESTING PROCEDURES AND  
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STEP SEQUENCE TESTING SYSTEMS FOR PREDICTIVE CAPABILITY  
CONCERNING EXPOSURE AND EFFECTS. GROUPS WILL DEFINE BASE  
LINE SET OF DATA FOR INITIAL TESTING, ESTABLISH CRITERIA  
FOR INITIATING ADDITIONAL STEPS IN SEQUENCE AND EVALUATE  
POSSIBILITIES FOR HARMONIZATION. MOST EXPERTS WILL VISIT  
U.S. IN LATE FEBRUARY TO DISCUSS AND EVALUATE US TESTING  
PROACTICES AND PLANS. EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES REPS

PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY AND AGREED TO CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON PRIOR TO OECD GROUP MEETINGS. BOTH DANISH AND GERMAN EXPERTS STRONGLY SUPPORTED THIS IMPORTANT UNDERTAKING. US IMPRESSED WITH GENERAL WILLINGNESS TO ACCELERATE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN ATTEMPT TO KEEP PACE WITH TSCA DEADLINES.

2. HARMONIZATION EFFORT (REFERRED TO AS OECD CHEMICAL TESTING PROGRAM) WILL BUILD ON WORK OF BERLIN MEETING BUT GREATLY EXPANDS LEADERSHIP INVOLVEMENT OF COUNTRIES OTHER THAN US AND GERMANY. RESPONSIBILITIES OF LEAD COUNTRIES FOLLOW:

A) GERMANY WILL LEAD GROUP ON PHYSICAL CHEMICAL PROPERTIES. PLANS JAN. MEETING IN FRG WHERE EXISTING LISTS WILL BE REVIEWED TO REDUCE THE CURRENT 20-30 PERCENT INTERNATIONAL VARIANCE (NOTE THIS GROUP HAS GOOD PROSPECT OF EARLY AGREEMENT POSSIBLY AT WASHINGTON MEETING IN FEBRUARYLM

B) GERMANY AND JAPAN WILL COCHAIR GROUP ON DEGRADATION-ACCUMULATION WITH FRG CONCENTRATING ON ALL BIOTIC PLUS BIOTIC TERRESTRIAL ACCUMULATION. JAPAN WILL LEAD WORK ON BIOTIC DEGRADATION AND AQUEOUS BIOTIC ACCUMULATION. DUE TO RESTRICTIONS IN JAPANESE BUDGET, 1ST MEETING NOT PLANNED UNTIL APRIL IN TOKYO WHERE THEY WILL REVIEW VARIOUS NATIONAL WORK DONE SINCE 1970, DRAFT SKELETON OF FINAL REPORT SO AS TO FOCUS WORK AND SELECT

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LIMITED NUMBER OF KNOWN CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES TO EQUILIBRATE DEGRADATION TESTS IN MOVE TOWARD COMPARABILITY OF SYSTEMS. DANISH EXPERT EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS GROUP. NOTE: GIVEN JAPANESE BARRIERS OF LANGUAGE, DISTANCE AND TRAVEL FUNDS - FISCAL YEAR ENDS IN MARCH - STRONG GERMAN ROLE OFFERS BEST HOPE FOR EARLY ACTION IN THIS AREA. IN RELATED DISCUSSION JAPANESE REQUESTED JOINT ENVIRONMENTAL MEETING WITH U.S. TAKE PLACE IN JUNE/JULY INSTEAD OF SEPT/OCT AND THAT PROJECT ON IDENTIFICATION AND CONTROL OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES COCHAIRING BY DR. FUJI AND WARREN MUIR TAKE PLACE IMMEDIATELY BEFORE OR AFTERWARD WITH CONCENTRATION ON TESTING.

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 AGRE-00 DOTE-00 HUD-02

HEW-06 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-07 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 INR-07 L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05

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OIC-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EA-12 /141 W

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O P 151114Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

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SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1660

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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C) NETHERLANDS WILL LEAD GROUP ON ECOTOXICOLOGY WHICH  
WILL DEAL WITH SELECTION OF TESTS FOR DETERMINING IMPACT  
OF CHEMICALS ON BIOTIC COMMUNITIES OTHER THAN MAN. IT  
WILL EXAMINE EFFECTS ON THE COHABITATION OF SPECIES  
(RELATIVE BIO MASS) AND FOOD CHAIN AND CONSIDER TARGET  
SYSTEMS. SINCE ACUTE TOXICITY IS NOT GENERALLY MOST  
PREVALENT EFFECT IN ENVIRONMENT, VALUE OF SINGLE ORGANISM  
TESTING QUESTIONED. CHAIRMAN PLANS TO DISSEMINATE A  
SUGGESTED SET OF PRINCIPLES IN DECEMBER AND WILL CALL FOR  
1ST MEETING IN JANUARY. ANALYSIS OF EXISTING TEST  
METHODS, THEIR DURATION, COMPARATIVE COSTS, VARIOUS  
TEST ORGANISMS WILL BE CONCLUDED BY MAY 1978, RESULTING  
CRITERIA WILL BE USED TO ANALYSE AND SORT OUT GROUPS OF  
TESTS AND PRODUCE A CRITICAL CATALOG OF TESTS BY SPRING  
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OF 1979. BEST METHODS FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES SHOULD BE  
AGREED ON BY AUTUMN 1979 (NOTE: IF THIS TIMING PRESENTS  
PROBLEM FOR TSCA IMPLEMENTATION U.S. SHOULD NOTIFY  
CHAIRMAN PRIOR TO JANUARY MEETING AND SUGGEST ALTERNATE  
PLAN). DR. WALLEN POINTED TO NEED TO SELECT SURROGATES  
FOR BIO MASS IN THE MANNER IN WHICH HUMAN TOXICOLOGY  
UTILIZES RATS AND MICE. CHAIRMAN AGREED ON NEED TO  
SELECT KEY SPECIES BUT REITERATED BELIEF IN DUBIOUS

VALUE OF SINGLE SPECIES ACUTE TOXICITY WHEN DEALING  
WITH ECOLOGY.

(NOTE: CHAIRMAN FELT FEBRUARY WAS TOO EARLY FOR VISIT  
TO WASHINGTON BUT URGED U.S. TO PARTICIPATE IN JANUARY  
MEETING IN NETHERLANDS), JAPAN PROMISED TO SEND DATA  
CONCERNING THEIR PLANT GROWTH INHIBITION TESTS.

D) U.K. AND U.S. WILL CHAIR GROUPS ON SHORT AND LONG  
TERM TOXICOLOGY RESPECTIVELY. PROPOSE JOINT MEETING IN  
WASHINGTON IN FEBRUARY TO RESOLVE OVERLAPS AND TO ALLOW  
MAXIMUM UTILIZATION OF EXPERTS IN TERATOLOGY, MUTAGENICI-  
TY AND CARCINOGENICITY. PLAN TO DRAW UP AND CIRCULATE  
ISSUE PAPERS PRIOR TO FEB. MEETING. WILL INVITE W.H.O.  
AND F.A.O. PARTICIPATION AS WELL AS INTERESTED COUNTRIES.  
U.S. GROUP UNDERTOOK TO MEET AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH  
N.C.I., NIOSH, ETC, REVIEW PUBLISHED PROTOCOLS SUCH AS  
CANADIAN, NCI, AND CONSIDER SUCH FACTORS AS NUMBER AND  
SEQUENCE OF TESTS, RELEVANCE AND NUMBER OF SPECIES,  
PREDICTABILITY AND HUMAN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DATA. F.R.G.  
AND NETHERLANDS WHO WILL BOTH PARTICIPATE FELT MUTAGENI-  
CITY SCREENING WOULD BE PART OF BASE SET OF TESTS AND  
HOPED FOR EARLY DELIBERATION ON THIS. FRANCE WILL SEND  
PARTICIPANTS FROM CANCER CENTER IN LYON AND PASTEUR  
INSTITUTE. JAPAN COULD NOT COMMIT TO FEB. MEETING BUT  
WISHES TO CONTRIBUTE IN AREAS OF MUTAGENICITY, CARCINO-  
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GENICITY.

E) SWEDEN WILL LEAD THE SIXTH EXPERT GROUP WHICH WILL  
DEFINE THE BASE LINE SET OF DATA FOR INITIAL ASSESSMENT  
OF A CHEMICAL SUBSTANCE. IT WILL ALSO STUDY EXISTING  
AND PLANNED STEP SEQUENCE TESTING SYSTEMS AND ESTABLISH  
CRITERIA FOR INITIATING THE DIFFERENT STEPS AS WELL AS  
DISTINGUISH TYPES OF STEP SYSTEMS NEEDED IN VARIOUS  
CIRCUMSTANCES.

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HEW-06 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-07 COME-00  
DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 INR-07 L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05  
NSAE-00 PM-05 USIA-15 SS-15 SP-02 FEA-00 INT-05  
OIC-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EA-12 /141 W  
-----008827 161347Z /41

O P 151114Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE  
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1661  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA  
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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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THE AIM OF ALL OF THESE GROUPS IS TO ACHIEVE OVER  
THE NEXT TWO YEARS A HARMONIZED SET OF TESTS WITH AGREED  
CRITERIA FOR INITIATING THE VARIOUS STEPS. ALTHOUGH  
ACHIEVEMENT OF SUCH A GOAL IN ITS ENTIRETY WITHIN THE  
NECESSARY TIME FRAME IS FAR FROM CERTAIN,  
THIS NEW MAJOR UNDERTAKING BY MOST OF THE MAJOR TRADING  
PARTNERS REPRESENTS THE BEST HOPE WE ARE LIKELY TO  
HAVE. SUGGEST ALL CONCERNED FEDERAL AGENCIES CAREFULLY  
REVIEW POSSIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THIS EFFORT.  
UNDERSTAND D.O.S. PLANS EARLY MEETING TO CORRDINATE U.S.  
INPUT.

OTHER ACTIONS INCLUDED: AGREEMENT TO HOLD TECHNICAL  
SEMINAR TO REVIEW RESULTS OF WILDLIFE SAMPLING PROGRAM  
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NOTE: THIS IS ONLY EXISTING INTERNATIONAL MONITORING  
PROGRAM OF WILD LIFE SPECIES AS INDICATORS OF TRENDS IN  
LEVELS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION. UNEP EXPRESSED  
INTEREST IN REVIEWING PROGRAM AND U.S. SHOULD CONSIDER  
WHETHER IT MERITS CALLING FOR UNEP TO TAKE ON FOLLOW UP  
ACTIVITY AS LOGICAL PART OF GEMS.  
CONSENSUS THAT SECRETARIAT NEEDS ADDITIONAL RESOURCES  
TO PROPERLY SUPPORT TESTING HARMONIZATION PROGRAM. U.S.  
SHOULD DECIDE WHETHER TO PUSH FOR INCREASED FUNDING AT  
NOV. 30 ENVIRONMENT MEETING.

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
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